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Comprehension (Unsolved Exercise)

Comprehension of a given passage means a complete understanding of it. We are required to answer certain questions at the end of the passage to show that we understand it. To answer these questions correctly, we should,

- i. Read the passage carefully till we understand it well,
- ii. understand the given questions clearly, and
- iii. answer the questions in the same tense and person as used in the passage.

1. About sixty years ago, the question of choosing a profession was not taken up seriously. A son generally followed the trade (کاروبار) of his father. But now-a-days one can take up any trade one likes. The students who make the right choice of profession are always successful. For the right choice of a profession (پڑھنے)، there should be some definite aim.

The students who do not have any definite aim, suffer (صیخت میں پڑھنے) a lot in the end. They also have difficulty in finding an employment. In choosing a profession, the teacher and the parents play very important part. The teacher keeps an eye (نظر رکھنا) (شگر) on his pupils (پupil). He studies their habits. So he can put his pupils on the right path of life.

QUESTIONS:

1. What were the conditions about the choice of profession sixty years ago?
2. Why did the people not choose the profession seriously?
3. Can a student of the present times choose his profession freely?
4. What is the advantage of a right choice of a profession?
5. How can a student choose his profession rightly?
6. What will be the difficulty of a student who is reading without a definite aim?
7. How can a teacher help his pupils in making a choice of profession?

ANSWERS:

1. Sixty years ago, the choice of a profession was not taken up seriously.
2. People did not choose the profession seriously because generally a son followed the trade of his father.
3. Yes, a student of the present times can choose his profession freely.
4. The right choice of a profession paves the way to success.
5. When a student has some definite aim before him, he can choose his profession rightly.
6. A student who is reading without a definite aim, suffers a lot in the end as it becomes difficult for him to find an employment.

1. A teacher can help his pupils in making a choice of profession by keeping an eye on the activities and habits of pupils.
2. Making pottery (تِلہن) on the potter's wheel is called "throwing". The thrower is a very skilful (اُنالی) workman. But there is another method of shaping articles out of clay (جکن مٹی) "moulding". A plaster mould (سائچے) is made and the clay is pressed into it. This is a quicker and less difficult way and must be used to make things like handles; but all the most beautiful pottery (تِلہن کے بڑی) is thrown. When the piece of pottery is taken off the wheel, it is put aside to dry, after which design may be painted on it with special colours that will stand great heat; it is then ready to be fired. This is done in a large oven, or kiln (پٹھی). The pieces of pottery are placed in earthenware tubs called "saggers" (سائچے جس سے بتن کی کٹلی دی جائے) so that the flames cannot touch the pottery.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is throwing?
2. What is the other method of shaping articles?
3. What is the advantage of moulding?
4. How does the potter make designs on the pieces of pottery?
5. How is pottery baked in fire?

ANSWERS:

1. Making pottery on the potter's wheel is called "throwing".
2. The other method of shaping articles is "moulding".
3. Moulding is quicker and less difficult method for making things like handles and even pottery.
4. When the piece of pottery is taken off the wheel, it is put aside to dry after which design may be painted with special colours.
5. The pieces of pottery are baked in a large oven or kiln.

3. The Sultan sent agents to all parts of the East to buy rare manuscripts (رسالة), and bring them back to Cordova. His men were constantly searching the booksellers' shops at Cairo, Damascus and Baghdad for rare volumes for his library. When the book was not to be bought at any price, he would have it copied; and sometimes even hear of a book which was only in the author's (معنی) brain, and send him a handsome present, and beg him to send the first copy to Cordova. By such means, he gathered no fewer than four hundred thousand books and this at a time when printing was unknown, and every copy had to be painfully copied, in the fine clear hands of the professional copyist.

QUESTIONS:

1. What for did Sultan sent his agents to all parts of the East?
2. Where and what for they searched the booksellers' shops?
3. What would he do when any book was not to be bought at any price?
4. What would he do when the author had not yet written the book?
5. How many books had he gathered?
6. Why was it difficult to collect so many books in those days?

ANSWERS:

1. Sultan sent his agents to all parts of the East to buy rare manuscripts.
2. They searched the book sellers' shops at Cairo, Damascus and Baghdad for rare volumes for his library.
3. When any book was not to be bought at any price, he would have it copied.
4. When the author had not yet written the book, he would send him a handsome present and request him to send him the first copy.
5. He had gathered no fewer than four hundred thousand books.
6. It was difficult to collect so many books in those days because printing was unknown then and every copy had to be painfully copied by a professional copyist.

4. Musa was in chief command, and the gates were in his charge. They had been barred (بُرْكَتُوكَ) when the Christians came in view; but Musa threw them open. "Our bodies" he said, "will bar the gates". The young men were kindled (أُنْجِيزَتُوكَ) by such words, and when he told them, "We have nothing to fight for but the ground we stand on; and without that we are without home or country". They were ready to die with him. With such a leader, the Moorish cavaliers (جُنُدُوكَ) performed feats (أَعْلَمَوكَ) of bravery in the plain which divided the camp from the city.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was the chief commander and what was in his charge?
2. When were the gates barred?
3. Who threw them open?
4. What did Musa say?
5. What effect had his words on the young men?
6. What divided the city from the camp?

ANSWERS:

1. Musa was the chief commander and the gates of the city were in his charge.
2. When the Christians came in view, the gates were barred.
3. Musa threw them open.

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4. Musa said, "Our bodies will bar the gates" and "We have nothing to fight for but the ground we stand on and without that we are without home or country".
5. The young men were kindled by such words and they were ready to die with him.
6. The plain in which Moorish Cavaliers performed feats of bravery divided the city from the camp.

5. Early rising is a good habit as it gives us an early start of our day's work. We gain time while the late risers are asleep. The early risers have another advantage also and that is that they enjoy good and sound health. Those who are out of bed early, have plenty of time to do their work carefully, steadily (عَلِيٌّ) and completely. They do not have to put off (تُرْكِي) anything to the next day. The early riser is always happy, fresh and smart. He enjoys his work while those who get up late find their duty dull and dry and do it unwillingly (بَرْدِي). Early rising is, therefore, a key to success in life.

QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of habit is early rising?
2. Why can an early riser do more work than the late riser?
3. Why does an early riser enjoy good health?
4. Why does a late riser find his work dull and dry?
5. What is the key to success in life?

ANSWERS:

1. Early rising is a good habit.
2. An early riser takes an early start of his day's work while late risers are asleep. So he can do more work than the late riser.
3. An early riser enjoys good health because he is always happy, fresh and smart.
4. A late riser finds his work dull and dry because he has very less time and does it unwillingly.
5. Early rising is the key to success in life.

6. Some ants are social insects. It means that they live in societies, cooperate with one another and do only the work assigned (مُسَمَّى) to them. They go out in search of food in an orderly fashion, marching in lines and columns like soldiers. Different groups of social ants have different jobs to do. They manage their affairs through division of labour (مُنْتَهَى). Some ants guard and protect their community. They fight the other insects that attack them or raid (أَسْرِي) their colony. They are called soldier ants. Another group gathers food for the whole community. The social ants have not learnt this division of labour. They have inherited (عُلِّيٌّ) it.

QUESTIONS:

1. What do we mean by social insects?
2. Why are some ants called social insects?
3. How do the ants cooperate with one another?
4. What principle do they follow while doing their work?
5. Why are the members of a certain group called soldier ants?
6. How have the ants learnt the principle of division of labour?

ANSWERS:

1. Social insects mean the insects that live in societies and cooperate with one another.
2. Some ants are called social insects because they live in societies and cooperate with one another.
3. The ants cooperate with one another by doing only the work assigned to them.
4. While doing their work, they follow the principle of division of labour.
5. The members of a certain group are called soldier ants because they fight with the other insects who attack or raid their colony.
6. They have not learnt the principle of division of labour. They have inherited it.
7. Iqbal is not only the greatest poet of our age but also one of the greatest poets of all times. There are not many poets who wrote so many great poems as he did. He did not write poetry for poetry's sake (غایر). He was, in fact, much more than a mere (صرف) poet. He was a learned man. He was a great scholar. He was a great philosopher. He was a political leader (سیاسی) of great importance. But more than anything, he was a Muslim who had great love for God and His prophet (Peace Be Upon Him). He wrote poetry to express the great and ever-lasting (بیشتر نہیں) truth of philosophy, history and Islam. He wrote poetry to awaken (پسراکنے کیلئے) the Muslims of the whole world from the deep sleep. He asked the Muslims of the whole world to unite (توحید).

QUESTIONS:

1. Why is Iqbal considered to be one of the greatest poets of all times?
2. Did he write poetry for poetry's sake?
3. How can you say that Iqbal was much more than a mere poet?
4. What kind of Muslim was Iqbal?
5. With what aim did he write poetry?
6. What was Iqbal's call to the Muslims of the whole world?

ANSWERS:

1. Iqbal is considered to be one of the greatest poets of all times because he wrote many great poems for the good of human beings.
2. No, he did not write poetry for poetry's sake.
3. Iqbal was not only a poet but he was also a learned man, a great scholar, a great philosopher and a great political leader.
4. Iqbal was a Muslim who had great love for God and His Prophet (SAW).
5. He wrote poetry with the aim of awakening the Muslims of the world from slumber.
6. He asked the Muslims of the whole world to be united.

8. One day a girl found a coin. It rolled(لرختا) away before her broom(بیچارہ) when she was sweeping the yard, and fell with a little clatter(کھٹکت کی آواز) against the wall. She ran and picked it up. Someone had dropped it while crossing the yard and perhaps had not even troubled to look for it. It was worth little. But it seemed a whole fortune to her, who never had anything of her own before. She rubbed it clean on the sleeve(پیر) of her blue cotton jacket and put it into her pocket.

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the girl find?
2. When did she find it?
3. How had the coin been there?
4. What was the worth of the coin?
5. Why was it a whole fortune for her?
6. How did she clean it?
7. What did she do after cleaning it?

ANSWERS:

1. The girl found a coin.
2. She found it when she was sweeping the yard.
3. Someone had dropped the coin there, while crossing the yard.
4. The worth of the coin was little.
5. It was a whole fortune for her because she had never anything of her own before.
6. She cleaned it by rubbing it on the sleeve of her blue cotton jacket.
7. After cleaning it, she put it into her pocket.

9. In December, 1930 Dr. Muhammad Iqbal was invited to preside(صرارت کرنا) over the annual meeting of All India Muslim League at Allahabad. In his address(خطاب), he openly opposed the idea of power-sharing(شراکت اقتدار) together of Hindus and Muslims into one nation. He declared

that the move to apply one constitution (جسٹیس) to both the Hindus and the Muslims would result in a civil war. He wanted to see the Punjab, Sind, Baluchistan and the NWFP a single state for the Muslims, so that they should live according to the teachings of Islam. We can say that Allama Iqbal was the first thinker to give us the idea of a separate homeland for the Muslims of India i.e partition of the subcontinent (جسٹیس) into two sovereign (خود اپنے) states. The Muslims soon realized the importance of the demand for two separate states. It was then adopted (خود اپنے) as the Pakistan Resolution in 1940.

QUESTIONS:

1. Where was the annual meeting of the All India Muslim League held in 1930?
2. Who was invited to preside over the session?
3. What idea did Allama Iqbal oppose?
4. Which provinces did he want to be included in the Muslim state?
5. On what grounds did he demand a separate state for the Muslims of India?
6. When was the Pakistan Resolution moved?

ANSWERS:

1. The annual meeting of the All India Muslim League in 1930 was held at Allahabad.
2. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal was invited to preside over the session.
3. Allama Iqbal opposed the idea of power sharing together the Hindus and Muslims as one nation.
4. He wanted to see the Punjab, Sind, Baluchistan and the NWFP in the Muslim state.
5. He demanded a separate state for the Muslims of India on the ground of the religion of Islam.
6. The Pakistan Resolution was moved in 1940.

10. Indian National Congress was founded in 1985 by a liberal (لبرل) English man Mr. A.O Hume. He had retired from service after shouldering (ہماری بھارت) different responsibilities. He had been watching ugly (کبھی کبھی) law and order situation in the country quite frequently (کبھی کبھی). He was of the opinion that the high-handed (کھلکھل) rule of the Britishers was paving way for an unexpected outburst (پھٹ پھٹ) of violence. His plan was to put a safety valve to minimize the mounting (بڑھتے ہوئے) sentiments against the British rule. It was meant to provide an outlet (کنکاراٹ) which could ventilate (عام کے سامنے لے لانا) the revolutionary spirit. Mr. Hume put his plan before Lord Duffrin.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who founded the Indian National Congress?
2. Who was Mr. A.O. Hume?

3. When was the Indian National Congress founded?
4. Why did Hume think of founding this political organization?
5. With whom did he discuss his plan?

ANSWERS:

1. Mr. A.O. Hume founded the Indian National Congress.
2. Mr. A.O. Hume was a liberal English man. He had been in the Indian Civil Service and had retired from service after shouldering different responsibilities.
3. The Indian National Congress was founded in 1885.
4. Hume thought of founding this political organization because he was of the opinion that the highhanded rule of the Britishers was paving way for any unexpected outburst of violence. His plan was to put a safety valve to minimize the mounting sentiments against the British rule. It was meant to provied an outlet which could ventilate the revolutionary spirit.
5. He discussed his plan with Lord Duffrin.

11. There was once a man whose doctor gave him medicine which was quite black. His servant, who was illiterate (عُلَيْهِ), made mistake and poured out a dose (عَوْنَى) of ink in place of the drug. He gave it to his master who drank it. After the patient had taken the dose of ink, the servant somehow realized his mistake. He ran back to his master and said, "Sir, I have given you a dose of ink instead of the medicine as both were equally black. What should be done now?" The master replied softly, "Now give me a piece of blotting paper to swallow" (لَكِ)

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the colour of the medicine?
2. What did the servant give to his master?
3. When did the servant come to know of his mistake?
4. What did the servant do?
5. What did the master say to his servant?

ANSWERS:

1. The colour of the medicine was black.
2. The servant gave a dose of ink to his master.
3. When his master had taken the dose of ink, the servant came to know of his mistake.
4. The servant ran back to his master and told him that he had given him the dose of ink instead of medicine as both were equally black.
5. The master said to him, "Now give me a piece of blotting paper to swallow".

12. There lived a monkey in a forest. One day he went about in search of food as he was very hungry. At last, he entered the house of a farmer. There was nobody in the house. The monkey found a hard vessel (پتن) with a narrow opening. He put his hand into it. It had grains in it. He took a handful (میٹھی) of the grains and tried to pull his hand out but he could not do so with his closed fist. After some time, the owner of the house came up. His dog was also with him. The dog fell upon the monkey and tore him into pieces. Thus the monkey met his fate due to his greed.

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did the monkey live?
2. Why did he enter the house of a farmer?
3. What did he find there?
4. What was in the vessel?
5. What did the monkey do?
6. Why could he not pull his hand out of the vessel?
7. How did the monkey meet his fate?

ANSWERS:

1. The monkey lived in a forest.
2. The monkey was very hungry. So, he entered the house of a farmer in search of food.
3. He found there, a hard vessel with a narrow opening.
4. There were grains in the vessel.
5. The monkey put his hand into the vessel and took a handful of the grains.
6. He could not pull his hand out of the vessel because of its narrow opening and the closed fist.
7. The dog of the farmer fell upon the monkey and tore him into pieces.

13. A tailor ran a shop in a bazaar. An elephant used to go to the river through that bazaar. The tailor gave him a bun every day. One day the tailor pricked (چھوٹا) a needle into the trunk (سوندھ) of the elephant. The elephant became angry but went away. On return, he filled his trunk with muddy water. On reaching the shop of the tailor he put his trunk into it and squirted (چڑکناوارے کی ٹکل میں) the dirty water into the shop of the tailor. All the fine and new dresses of his customers were spoiled (خراب ہوتا). He was very sorry for annoying (عگ کرنا) the elephant but it was no use crying over spilt milk (اب پچھتائے کیا ہوت جب چڑا چکنی کھیت).

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did the elephant go every day?
2. What did the tailor give him?

3. What mistake did the tailor make one day?
4. What did the elephant do after drinking water?
5. How did the elephant punish the tailor for his mistake?
6. What is the moral of the story?

ANSWERS:

1. The elephant went to the river every day.
2. The tailor gave him a bun every day.
3. One day, the tailor pricked a needle into the trunk of the elephant.
4. After drinking water, the elephant filled his trunk with muddy water.
5. When the elephant reached the shop of the tailor, he put his trunk into it and squirted dirty water into the shop.
6. The moral of the story is "It is no use crying over spilt milk".

14. A professional player is quite different from an amateur (فُرَسِيٌّ). His main aim is to make money. He plays the game to earn money or to win a name. On the other hand, the amateur player has no such aim. He plays because he gets pleasure in playing. Games not only give him recreation (رِحَابَةٌ) but also physical exercise. He enjoys good health and sound physique. He plays the game as he should. He observes all the rules and regulations of games. The amateur player plays honestly. He becomes a disciplined gentleman and a responsible citizen. He accepts defeat but does not resort (تَرْكِي) to cheating or other unfair means to win. If he wins a game, he feels happy but he is not sad at losing one.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is meant by professional player?
2. With what aim does he play games?
3. What makes an amateur player a responsible citizen?
4. What qualities of true sportsmanship does a professional player lack?
5. How does an amateur player differ from a professional player?
6. How does the amateur player take his defeat?
7. Who plays the game for the sake of game?

ANSWERS:

1. Professional player means a player who plays the game for money or to win a name.
2. He plays games with the aim of earning money.
3. Observance of all the rules and regulations of the game makes him a responsible citizen.
4. A professional player lacks honesty, discipline and truth.
5. Unlike a professional player, an amateur player plays the game as he should and plays honestly observing all the rules and regulations.

6. An amateur accepts defeat but does not cheat or use unfair means to win.
7. An amateur player plays the game for the sake of game.

15. The camel is rightly called the "ship of desert". It is the best means (سیارہ) of transport in deserts. Camels go slowly. But they go on walking for hours on the burning sand and in the blazing (بیکاری) sun. Camels carry heavy loads, much more in weight than any other beast of burden can. While other animals' feet sink into the sand but nature has made the feet of camel so that it is not at all difficult for it to walk on sand. The camel is superior to all other animals because it can go without food and drink for days and weeks together. It can store food and water. Its hump (کھنک) is also a store of food which the camels use when they get nothing to eat and drink for many days. In deserts only bushes grow here and there and the camel can live on these.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why is camel called the ship of desert ?
2. Is it for its speed that it is called the ship of desert?
3. What difficulty have other beasts of burden to face while walking on the sand?
4. Why does a camel walk easily on the loose sand of the desert?
5. What special quality makes camel superior to other animals used for transport?
6. How does the camel go without food and water for days and weeks?
7. What does the camel generally live on?

ANSWERS:

1. The camel is called the "ship of desert" because it can walk for hours on burning sand and in blazing sun with heavy loads.
2. No, it is not called the 'ship of desert' for its speed.
3. The feet of other beasts of burden sink into the sand.
4. Nature has made the feet of the camel with the footpad that it is not difficult for it to walk on sand.
5. The camel can store food and water. It can go without food and drink for weeks and days.
6. The camel has a hump to store food and water.
7. The camel generally lives on the bushes of desert.